

## Warning over modernisation plans

Modernisation of the police service could mean 'fewer police officers and a poorer service' under the guise of more for less as the next government come to power, the leader of the constables will warn this month.

Paul Lewis, chairman of the Police Federation's Constables' Central Committee, plans to deliver the message to delegates, including politicians, at this month's annual Police Federation Conference held in Bournemouth.

He referred to the Labour government's blueprint for policing, their White Paper, *Protecting the public: supporting the police to succeed*, published last December, which refers to "police value for money".

Mr Lewis says that while workforce modernisation as a concept has been around since the days of Sir Robert Peel and means developing and adapting, current use of the phrase has a more ominous underlying meaning.

He will speak at the constables' conference hitting out at the 'grand plan' for the police service could see officers and support staff as simply 'bean counters, as mechanistic items to be deployed' with 'no room for personalities, commitment or vocation'.

"This [modernisation] is not something that should be imposed from the outside," he will tell delegates.

Thousands of police officers could be turned into 'robots' and stripped of discretion under the plans, according to Mr Lewis.

Speaking about the three 'Rs' as the theme of the conference; Respect, Rights and Responsibility, he highlights a need for mutual respect between the police and the community they serve; the rights of officers to be able to exercise discretion and being dealt with and responsibility which refers to the responsibilities of all agencies to help communities.

## ACPO taking a 'liberty'?

Civil rights campaigner Shami Chakrabarti has called for a 'fundamental review' of the functions carried out by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Speaking to *Police* magazine she said that the public and parliament should have a say in what ACPO should be and says it currently has 'too many conflicts of interest'.

The comments follow an increase in powers being issued under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) to those such as private security firms and bouncers through private company, ACPO Crime Prevention Initiatives.

The company has issued police powers, such as being able to issue minor fines and stop people in the street to take their details charging up to £600 for an assessment and £132 for each accredited employee.

Ms Chakrabarti says: "It is fine to set up a private security company, fine to be a body for guidance and it's also fine to represent people but to be all three is a conflict of interest."

Speaking on behalf of ACPO, Peter Davies, assistant chief constable of Nottinghamshire Police, said the scheme is not operated for profit.

Paul Lewis: modernisation could result in a 'poorer service'



Photography: Police Federation

Shami Chakrabarti calls for review of ACPO functions



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